

NCLB Forum for Higher Education 7/22/03

Small Group Discussion: Teacher Preparation in the Future

Assumptions about People

- Isolated skills approach to teaching vs. Brain Research leads to different approaches
- “Everyone can teach”
- Teachers are not able to do anything else
- Teachers want security → settling for what is, not reaching for what can be (and parents push for security in choice)
- Altruism, helping children are main motivations to teach
- Teachers have expectation about impact but lack tools to know if/how they have impact
- Validation of work as a teacher rests on the expertise of those observing, sharing

Expectations about Structure

- Shared outcomes responsibility with Local Education Agencies
- “Lean” preparation programs limit choices especially for review, data
- 24/7 access to teacher preparation is needed
- Teacher prep does a bad job with discipline content (NCLB assumption)
- Catch 22 of post baccalaureate transfer– MBA does not equal discipline of math; MSW does not equal social studies, etc.
- Teaching is a job, not a profession to many; to others, “don’t settle for security”
- Teachers don’t behave professionally (dress, professional development, ethics).
- Articulation agreements are needed to spell out structural components, responsibilities, share accountability with community colleges, other sources
- Renewal opportunities for teachers need to be linked to standards for preparation
- Data needs for teachers and for schools, as well as preparation programs– collect, use, explain
- Impact of teachers needs to be shown for structure to be validated

Political Pressure

- Either face-to-face or online...is this a choice or can it be both?
- Optical scanning by computer equals learning by the child in front of it?
- Specialty discipline rules in conversations about competency.
- Scientifically-based research is lacking but invoked as ideal
- Entitlement ideology → if I want to be a teacher tomorrow, it should happen.
- Cash cow of the university? - Entrepreneurship values in preparing teachers?
- Community college hopes to offer full teacher preparation
- Teacher shortage? Myth except for science, Special Education, bilingual?
- Accountability pressures at every level
- Do we really need to have preparation if anyone can teach (see above)?
- Online is good, irrespective of outcomes, evidence.